

Open Research Online

The Open University's repository of research publications and other research outputs

Expert participation on Wikipedia: barriers and opportunities

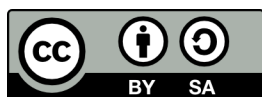
Conference or Workshop Item

How to cite:

Taraborelli, Dario; Mietchen, Daniel; Alevizou, Panagiota and Gill, Alastair (2011). Expert participation on Wikipedia: barriers and opportunities. In: Wikimania 2011, 4-6 Aug 2011, Haifa, Israel.

For guidance on citations see [FAQs](#).

© 2011 The Authors



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/>

Version: Version of Record

Link(s) to article on publisher's website:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/Expert_Participation_Survey_-_Wikimania_2011.pdf

Copyright and Moral Rights for the articles on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. For more information on Open Research Online's data [policy](#) on reuse of materials please consult the policies page.

oro.open.ac.uk

Expert participation on Wikipedia: Barriers and opportunities



Dario Taraborelli • Daniel Mietchen • Panagiota Alevizou • Alastair J. Gill

WIKIMANIA 2011
Haifa, 4-6 August 2011

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Expert_participation_survey

Motivation

“[Wikipedia] is not the bottom layer of authority, nor the top, but in fact the highest layer without formal vetting. In this unique role, it therefore serves as an ideal bridge between the validated and unvalidated Web.”

Casper Grathwohl (*Wikipedia Comes of Age*)

“What I wonder is why professors don’t curate [pages on] Wikipedia and add course materials and open access sections of textbooks, much of which they post online anyways.”

David Lipman (Amy Maxmen, *Science networking gets serious*)

Expert niches in Wikipedia

I B I S The International Journal
of Avian Science

Viewpoint

Why ornithologists should embrace and contribute to Wikipedia

ALEXANDER L. BOND

Issue

CHEMCONNECTOR BLOG

Home My Curriculum Vitae

« An Excellent Review of Protein Docking » Molecules and ChemSpider - A Respectful Comparison of Capabilities »

The Curation of Almost 5000 Structures on Wikipedia



Wikipedia: A Key Tool for Global Public Health Promotion

James M Heilman^{1,2}, MD CCFP(EM); Eckhard Kemmann³, MD FACOG; Michael Bonert⁴, MD MASc; Anwesh Chatterjee⁵, MRCP; Brent Ragar⁶, MD; Graham M Beards⁷, DSc; David J Iberri⁸; Matthew Harvey^{9,10}, BMed; Brendan Thomas¹¹, MD; Wouter Stomp¹², MD; Michael F Martone¹³; Daniel J Lodge¹⁴, MD; Andrea Vondracek¹⁵, PhD; Jacob F de Wolff¹⁶, MRCP; Casimir Liber^{17,18}, MBBS FRANZCP; Samir C Grover¹⁹, MD MEd FRCPC; Tim J Vickers²⁰, PhD; Bertalan Meskó²¹, MD; Michaël R Laurent²², MD

From a FriendFeed thread to a survey

Turning anecdotes about expert participation into data

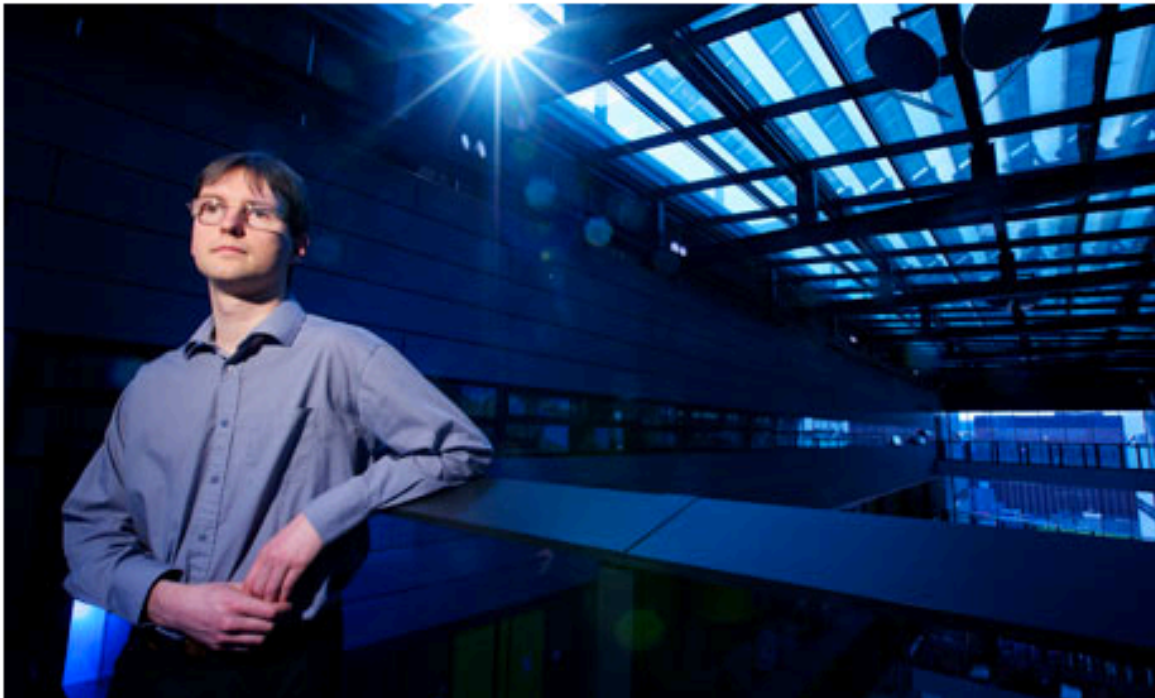
Wikipedia wants more contributions from academics

Wikipedia is surveying academics to find out why many seem reluctant to donate their expertise

Zoe Corbyn

[The Guardian](#), Tuesday 29 March 2011

[Article history](#)



Subject recruitment

Blog posts

Nature blogs, Wellcome Trust, OKFN

Social media

Twitter, Reddit, Slashdot

Banners on scholarly publishers

Springer, PLoS, BioMedCentral

Press

The Guardian, CBS News

Wiktionary

Mailing lists

Expert participation survey: Design

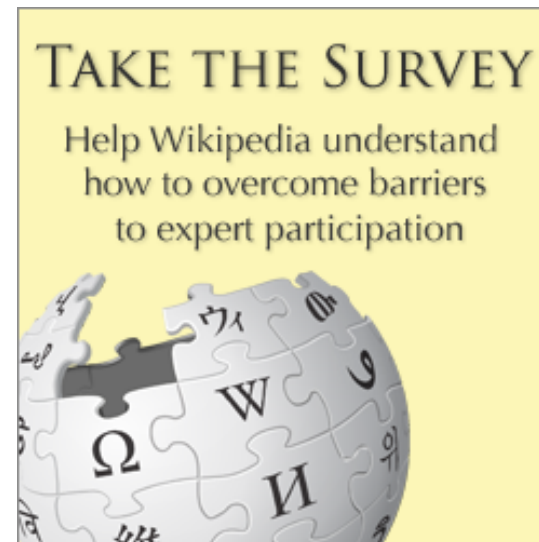
Demographics and expertise

Perception of Wikipedia
participation among peers

- Authorship
- Social interaction
- Quality of information
- Wiki literacy
- Expert contribution

Personal motivation to
contribute

Attitude towards openness and
open scientific collaboration



Expert participation survey: Overview

Total responses 2605
Complete 1618

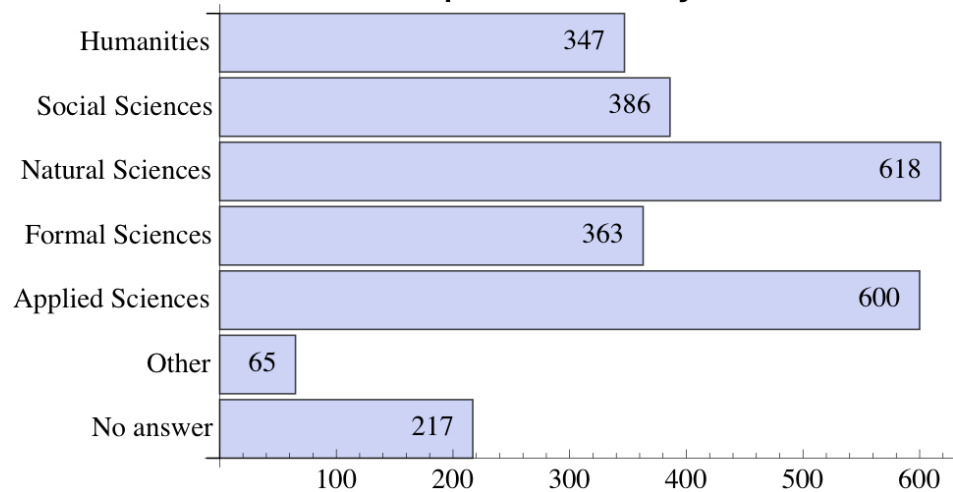
Contributors (C) 935
57.8%

Non contributors (NC) 641
39.6%

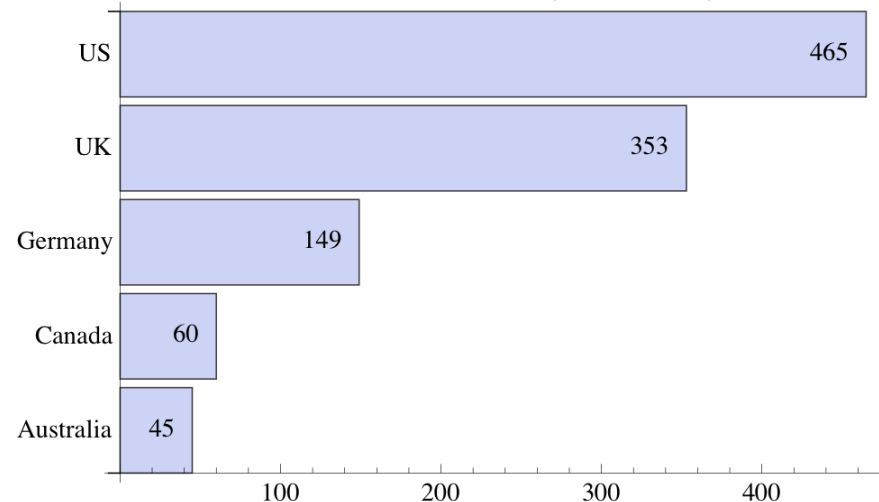
Available for follow-up interviews

	C	NC
704	470	234
43.5%	66.7%	33.3%

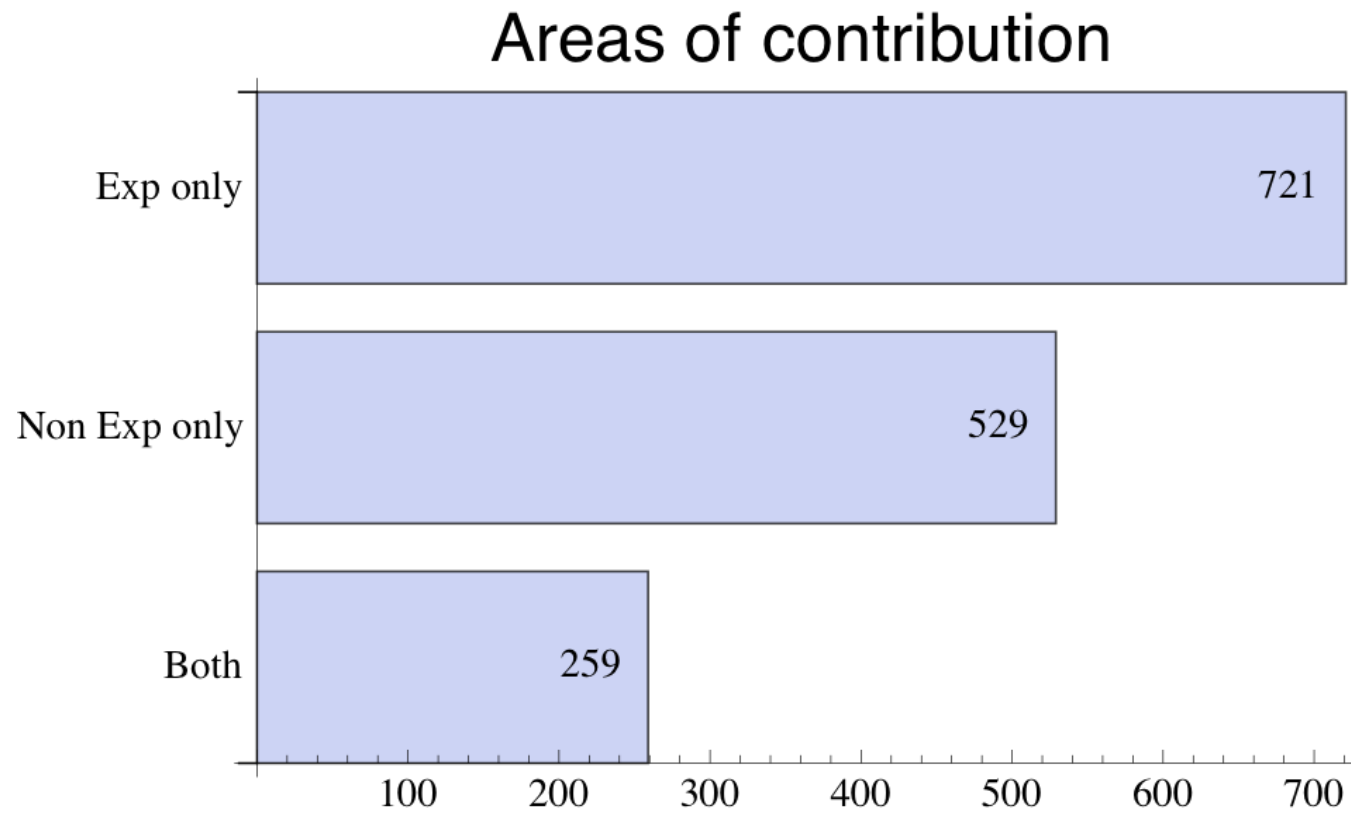
Respondents by field



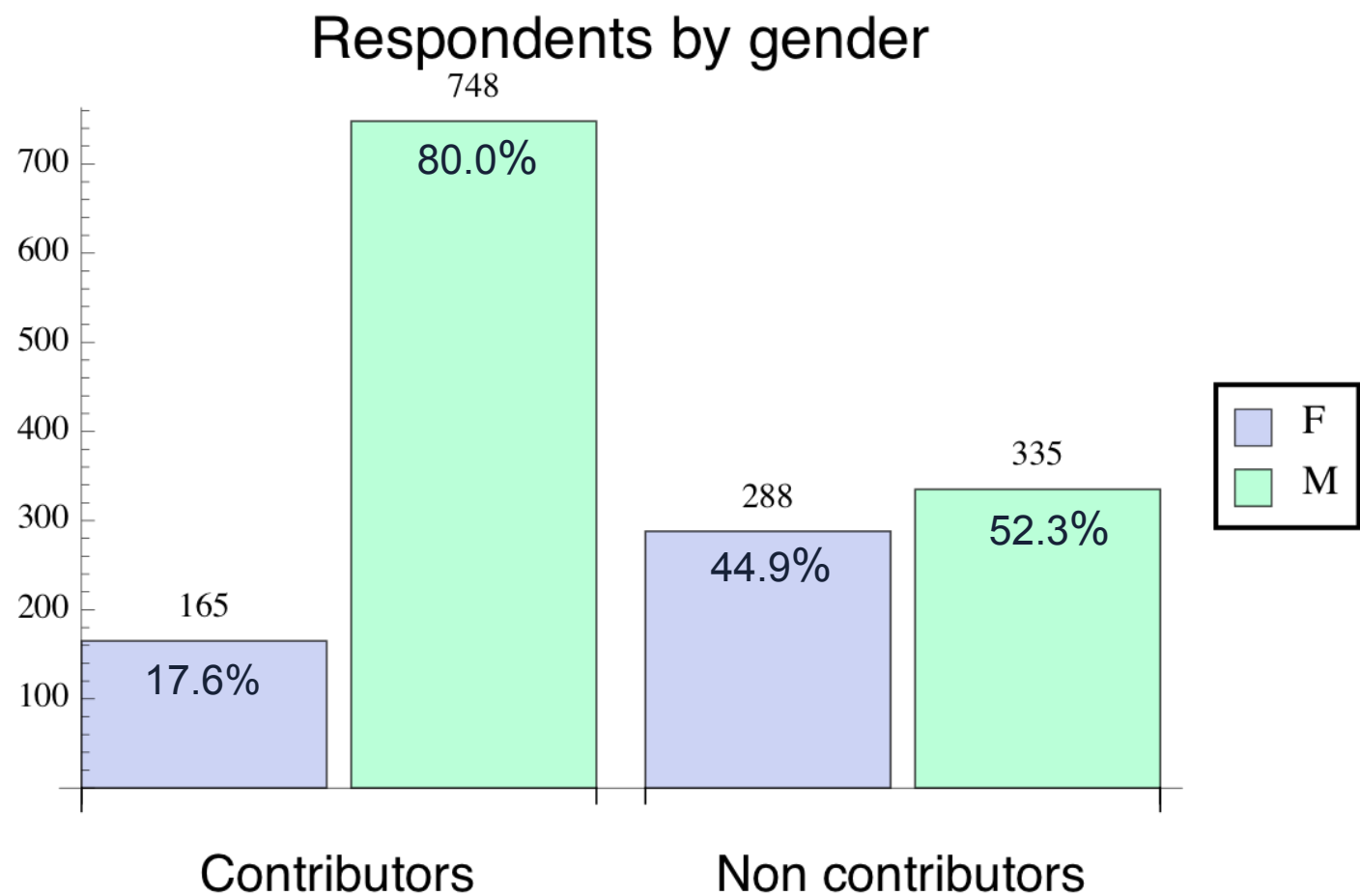
Respondents by country



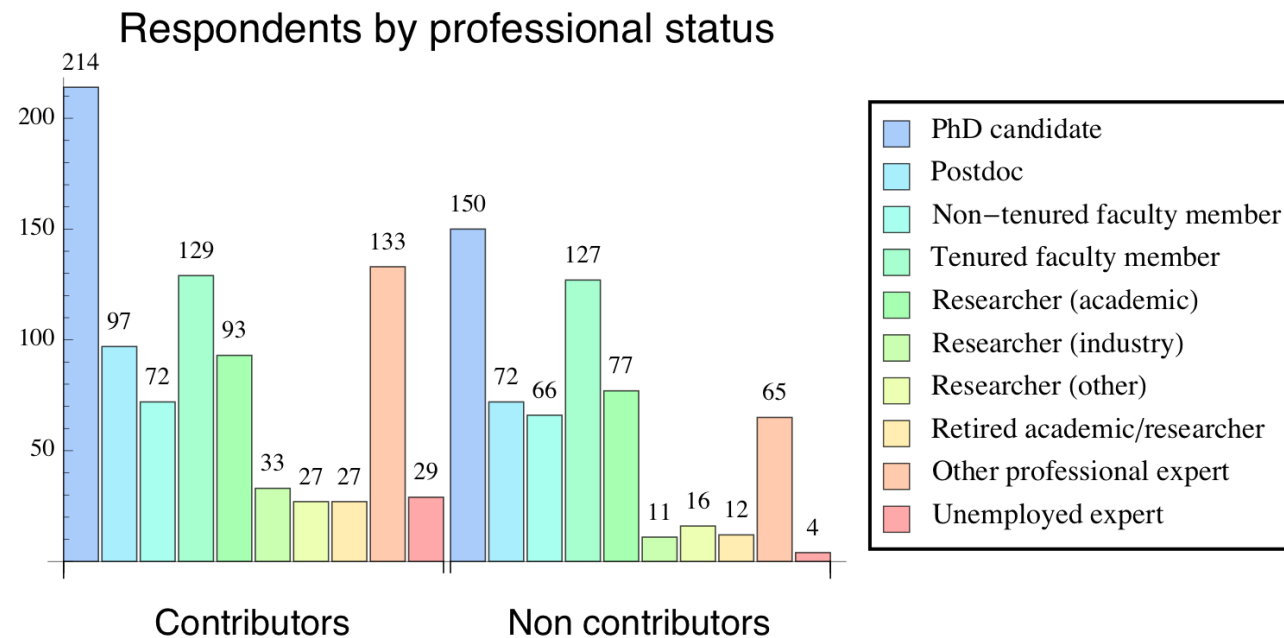
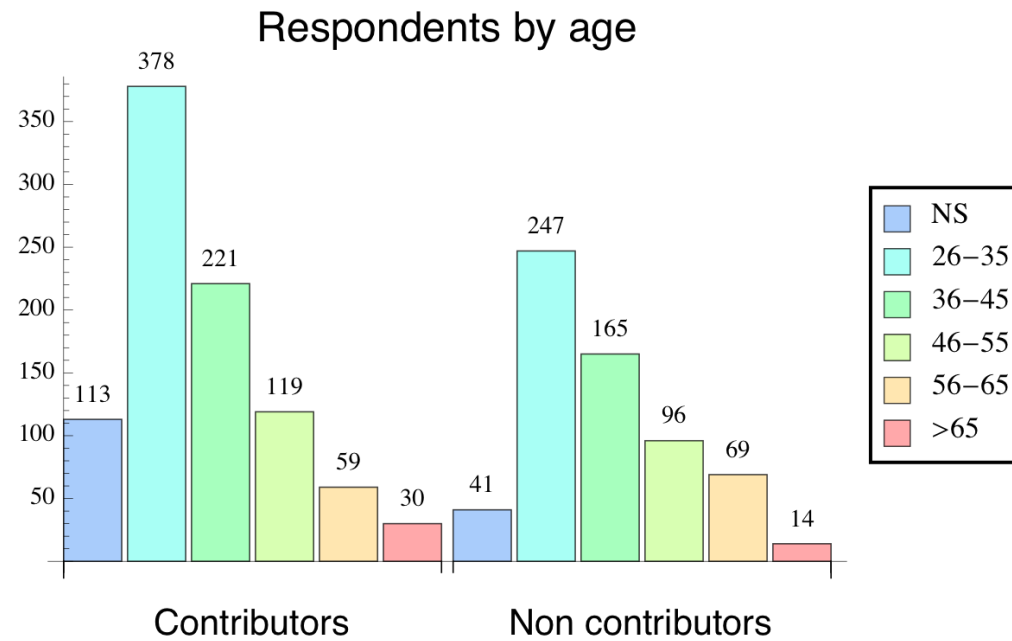
Demographics: Areas of contribution



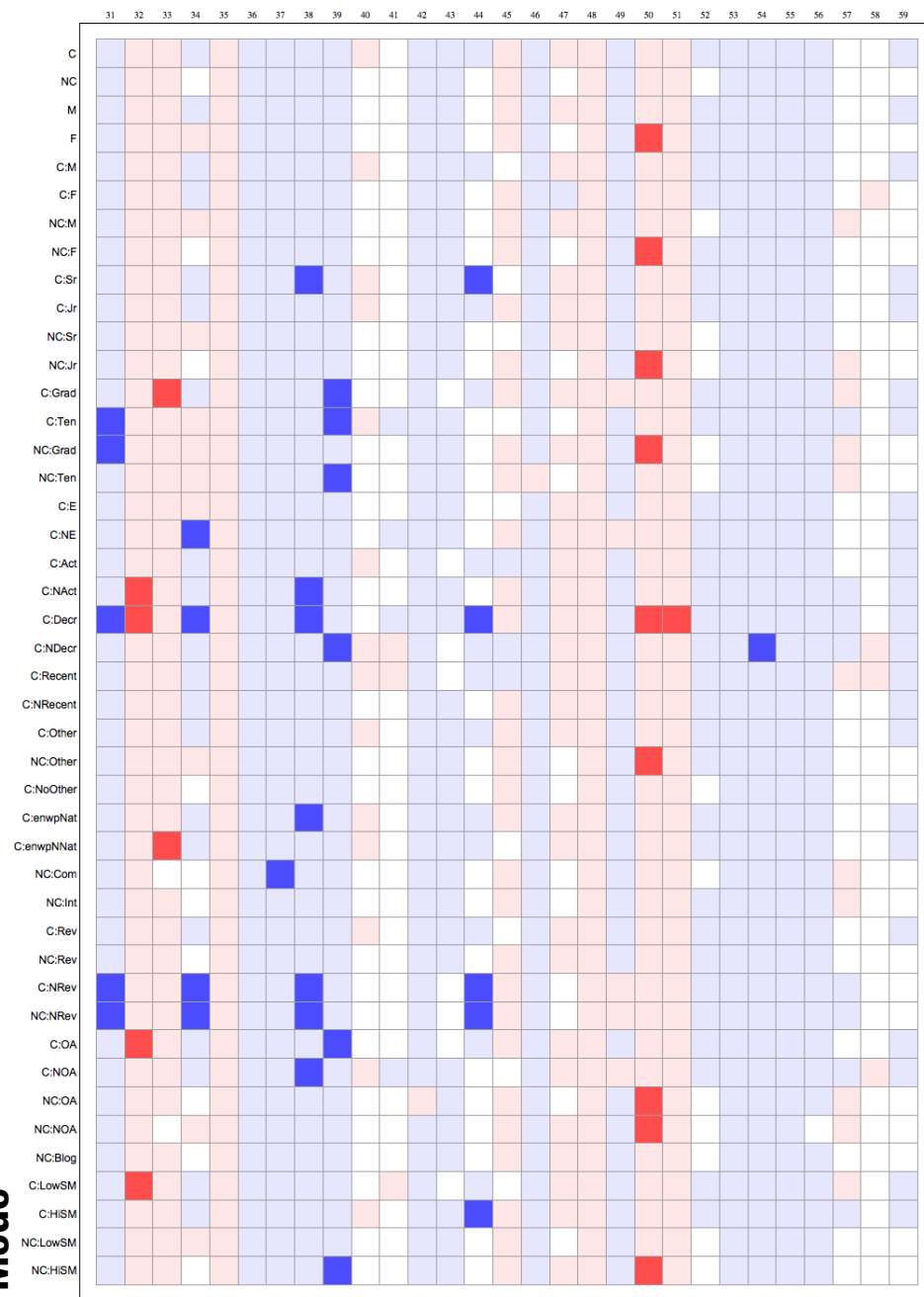
Demographics: Gender



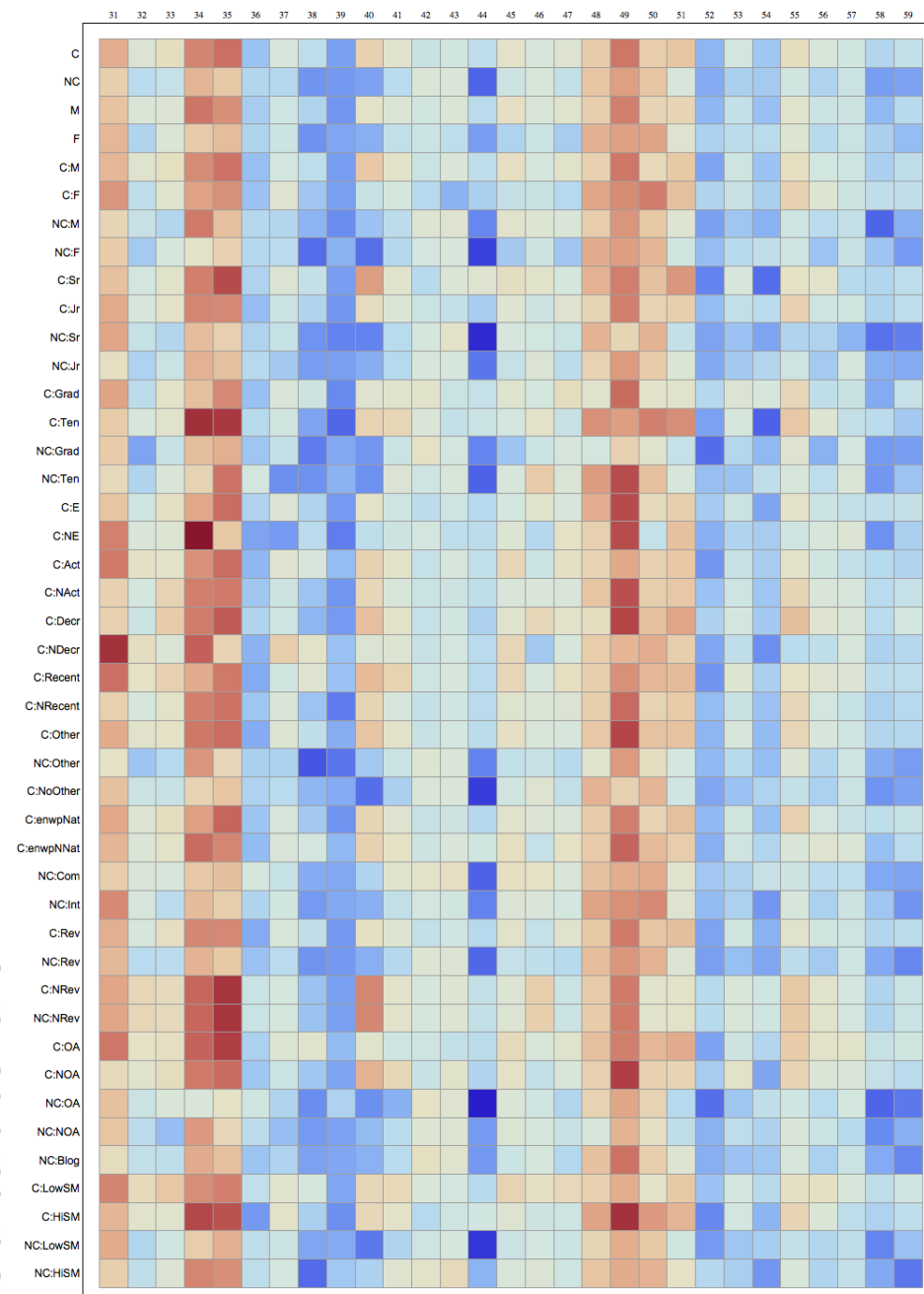
Demographics: Age and Professional status



Mode

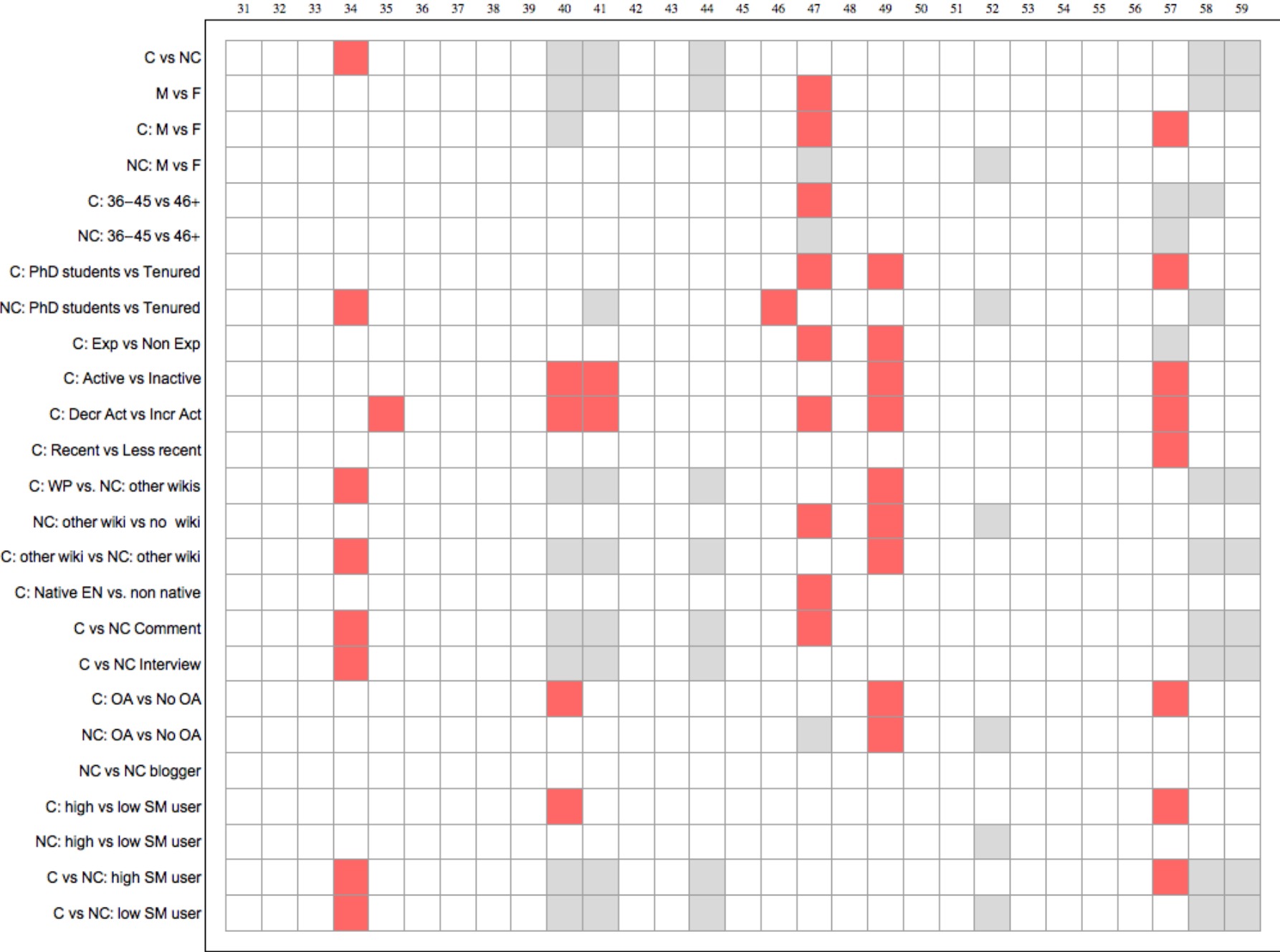


Standard deviation

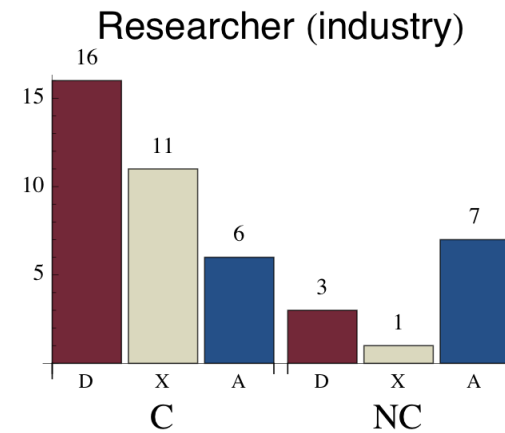
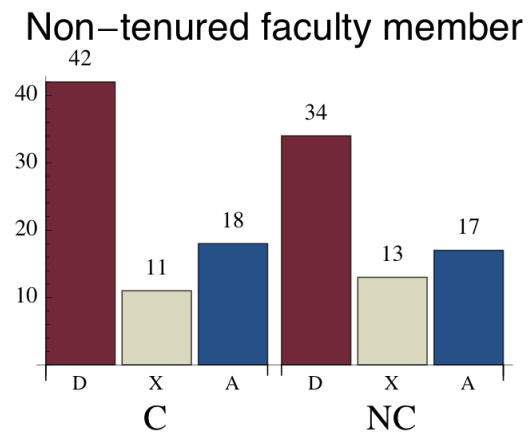
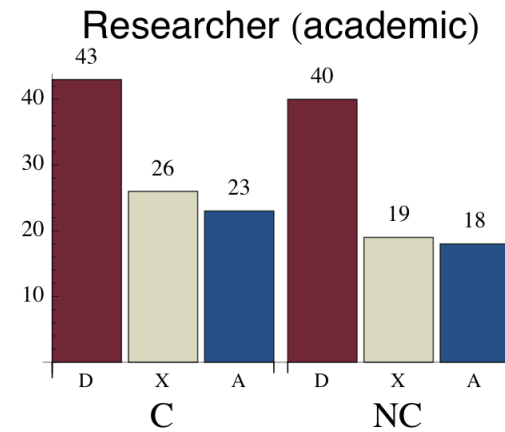
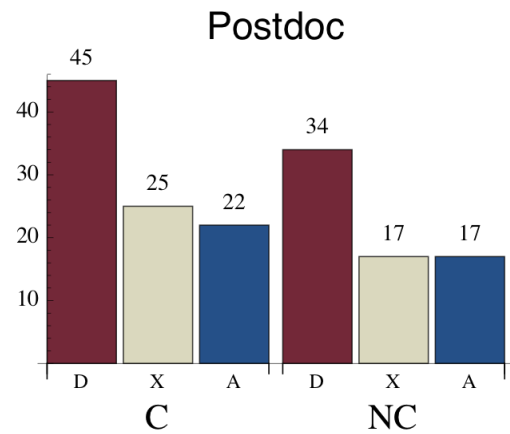
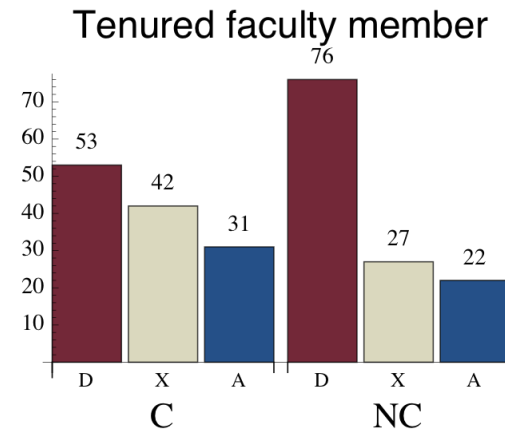
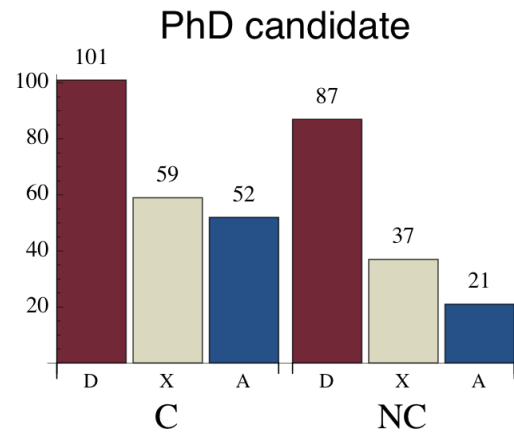


Responses by user category

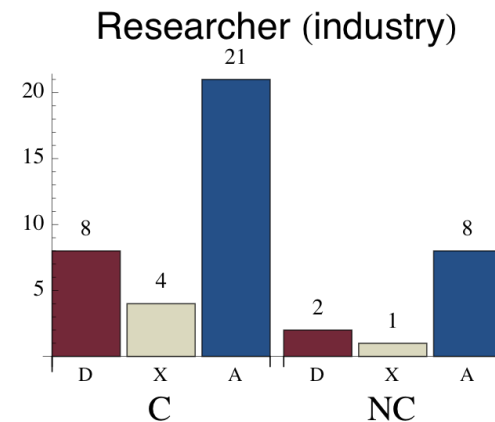
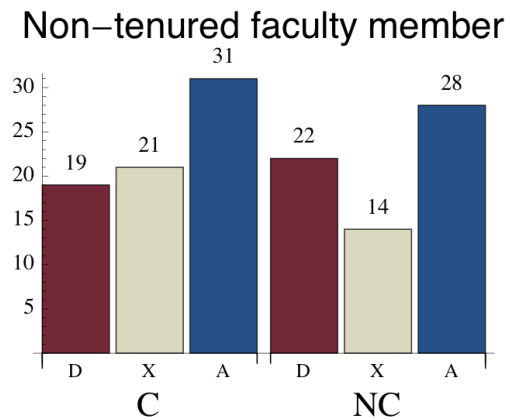
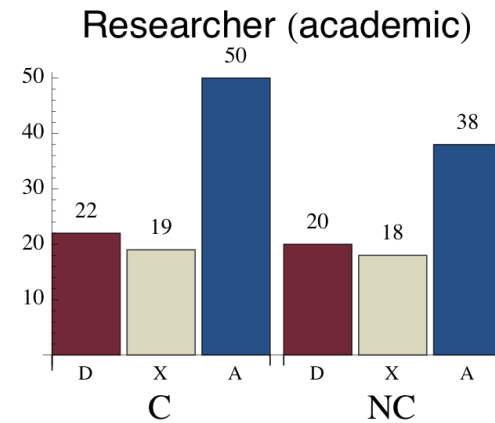
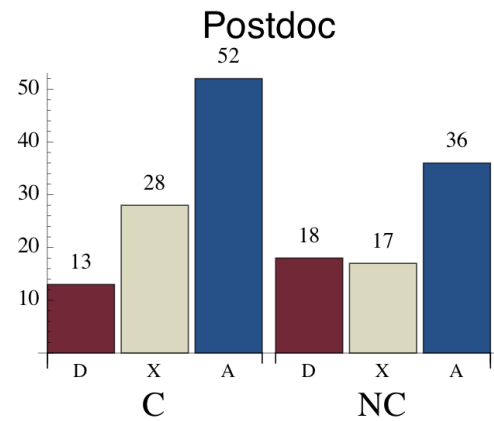
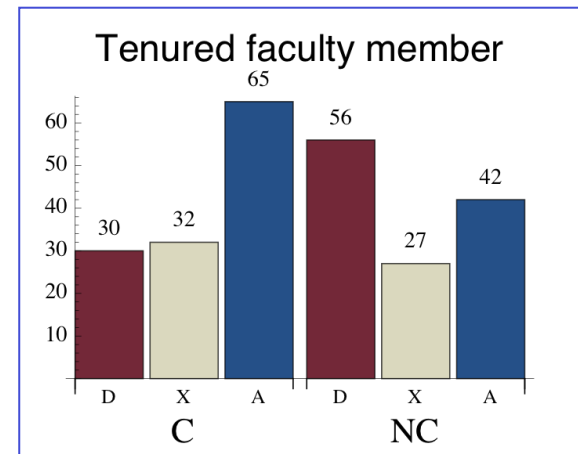
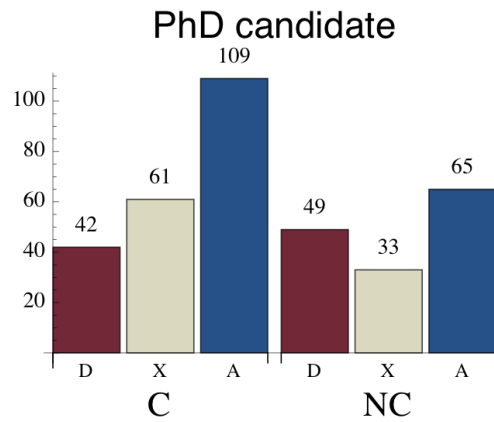
Mode difference



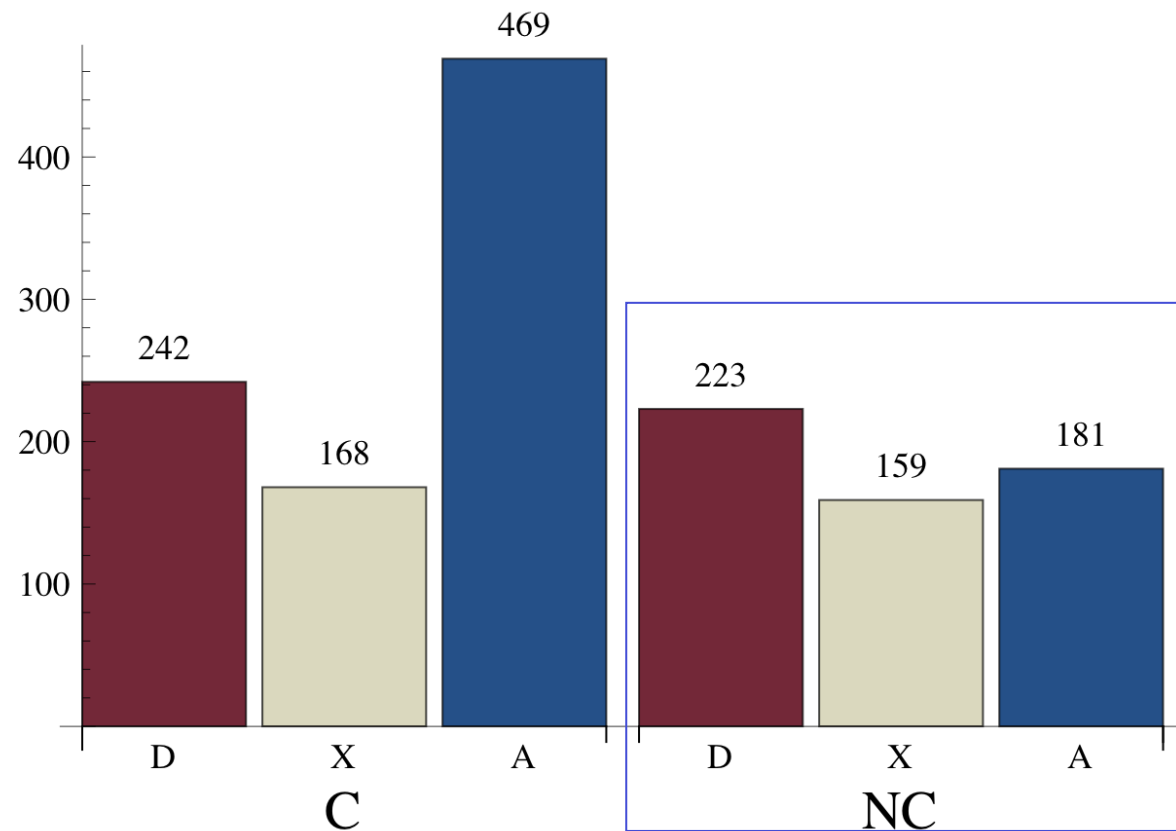
Wikipedia is a reliable source for research purposes in my field



Wikipedia is a reliable source for educational purposes in my field

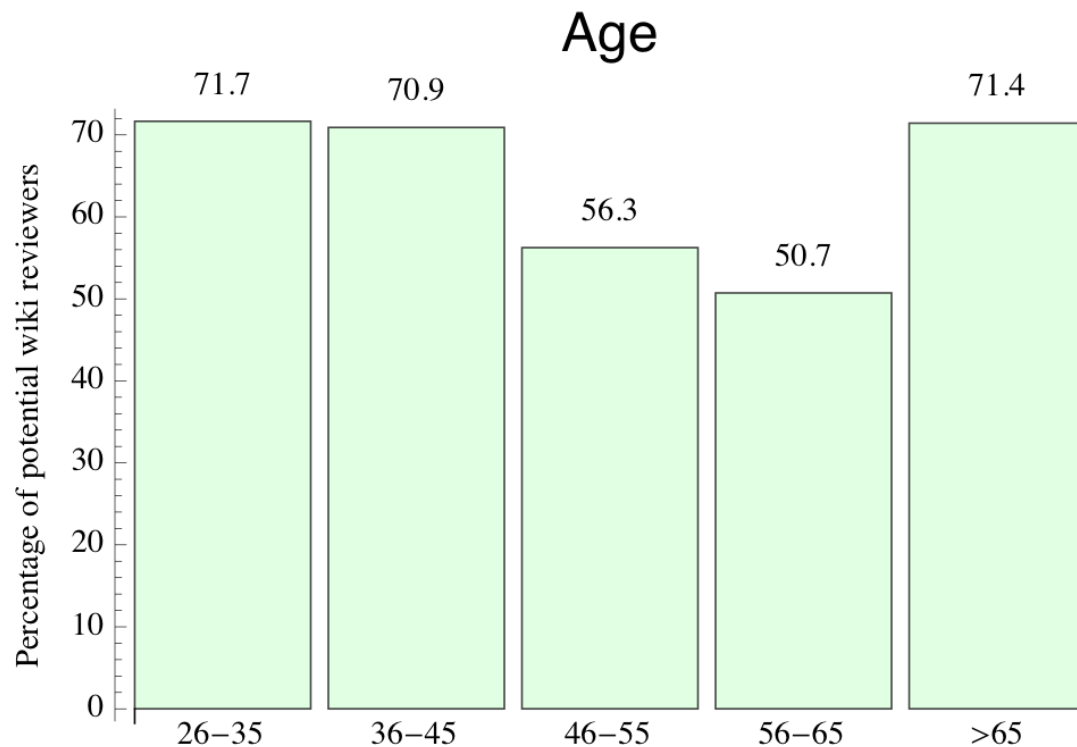


Researchers are not allowed to write about their own research in WP

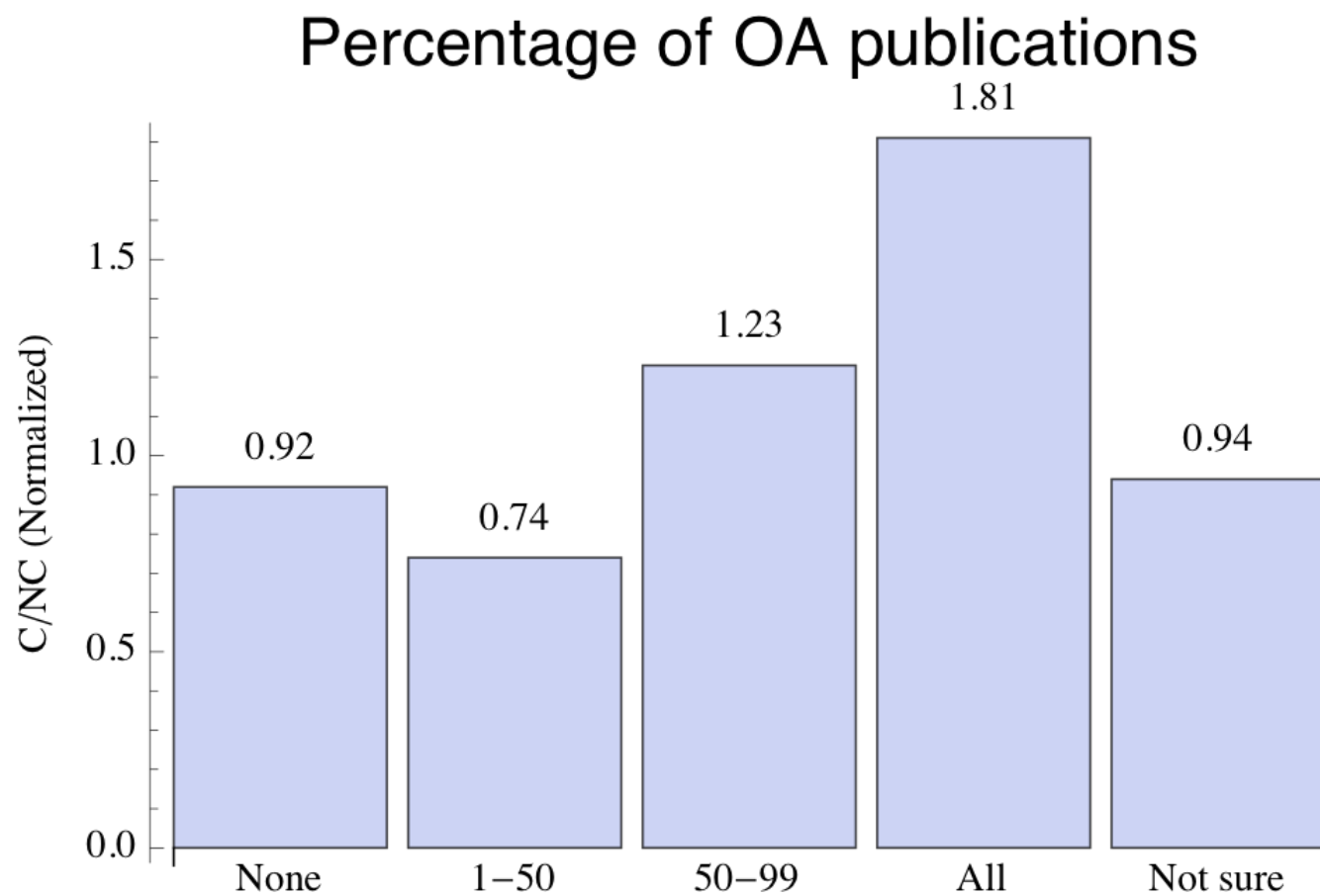


Would you consider helping rate/review wiki articles in your field of expertise?

Yes	1120	69.22%
No	320	19.78%
No answer	178	11.00%



Contribution and support of Open Access

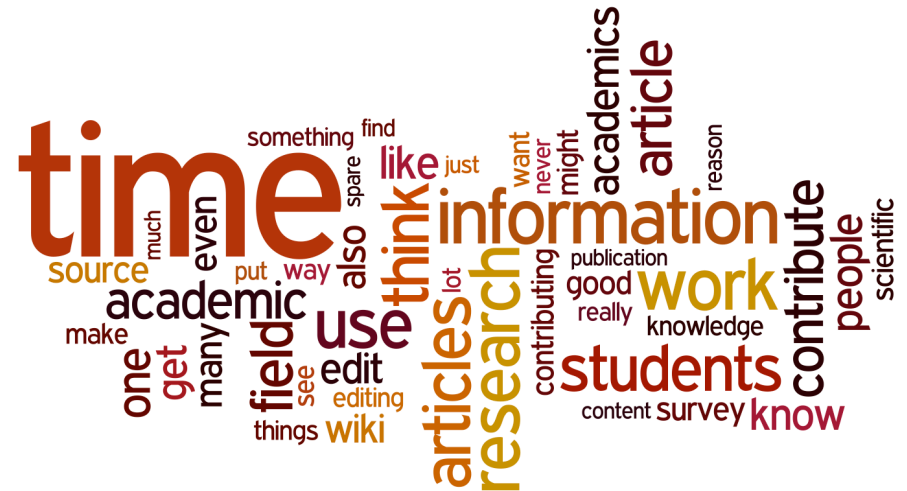


Comments: word frequency



Contributors

time	177 (+20.4%)
articles	147
research	115
field	107
people	104



Non contributors

time	132 (+144.5%)
information	54
work	50
research	49
articles	47

Comments: topic modeling

algorithmic identification of words characterizing emerging topics

Topic #7 experts editors expert level knowledge rules edits number high amateur problems amateurs opinions contributions times contributor expertise found explicitly

Topics significantly associated with not contributing

#9 **time and effort** involved in contributing to WP

#13 criticism of WP's **reliability**, how WP is used or cited by students

#23 **lack of recognition** for scholars who contribute to WP, fit with scholarly workflow.

Summary

Lack of areas of major disagreement between contributors and non contributors

Main **barriers** to expert contributions: effort and time allocation

Opportunities:

- Potential for review/quality assessment
- Potential for collaboration with OA community

An open data/open access policy for Wikimedia

Saturday 9-10.30am

More on this survey

Follow the data and results from the survey at:

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Research:Expert_participation_survey

Get in touch: expert_barriers@nitens.org